

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 April 2008 at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1

Present

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| President | Mr H Patel |
| Vice-President | Mr M Astbury |
| Treasurer | Mr A Gush |

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| Mr S Acres | Ms S Agha |
| Mrs M Allan | Mr G Alexander |
| Mrs C Brown | Mr J Buisson |
| Mr David Carter | Mr S Churton |
| Dr B Curwain | Professor S Denyer |
| Mrs D Drury | Dr P Entwistle |
| Mr J Gentle | Mr J Hanlon |
| Mrs S Hikins | Mrs L Jacobs |
| Mr R Jobling | Mr J Jolley |
| Mr A Kershaw | Mrs S Kilby |
| Professor B Michell | Mrs L Morgan |
| Mr G Phillips | Mr D Simpson |

In attendance

Mr P Jones, Chairman, Welsh Pharmacy Board and Dr RM Parr Chairman, Scottish Pharmacy Board.

Chief Executive & Registrar, Mr J Holmes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

08/36 Apologies for absence
Ms J Ramsey, Ms M Saunders, Mr D Thomson

08/37 Declaration of interests
The President reminded Council members that declarations of interest should be made by individual Council members at the beginning of the relevant item.

Professional leadership matters

08/38 Report of the Clarke Inquiry into the principles, functions and structure of a future professional body for pharmacy
The Chief Executive & Registrar reported that the Council had had a detailed and constructive discussion of the report of the Clarke Inquiry the previous day. The Council broadly welcomed the recommendations of the report and the direction indicated. The task now before the Council was to make the new professional body happen. The Council's response to the Clarke Inquiry

report would be finalised and a brief summary would be published in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* and the *Chemist and Druggist* on 10 May 2008, following a press conference on 6 May 2008.

During the discussion of the report, the Council had considered that the a transitional committee process should be commenced in parallel with a consultation of the membership regarding the general directions indicated for the professional body in the report. The importance of clarity in the consultation was emphasised.

The Council was of the view that the transitional process would not simply be the implementation of recommendations of the Clarke Inquiry but would involve the exploration of a number of issues which would require careful consideration and consultation,

In its discussions, the Council had broadly accepted the need for an independent chair of the transitional committee, which would have significant involvement from the Council and work collaboratively with stakeholders.

Council

confirmed

- i. that the transition process to the new professional body should move forward with urgency;
- ii. that during the transition process, the membership should be consulted on key aspects of the new body;.
- iii. that a communications programme was essential to inform and involve the membership and stakeholders in the transition; and
- iv. that there was broad support for an independent chairman of the transition committee;
- v. transitional committee would have significant involvement from the Council and work collaboratively with stakeholders.

The President thanked the staff who had helped to develop the Society's submission to the Inquiry and the Council's response. He commented that since the publication of the Inquiry report the Society had been in discussion with a number of stakeholders and there was a positive ongoing dialogue.

Organisational matters

08/39 Appointment of a lay Council member

Council noted paper 08.04/C/30, which had been circulated.

The President, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr John Hanlon for his work for the Council since June 2005 and in particular for chairing the Governance Committee.

Mr Andrew Gush proposed that the Council should consider not proceeding to recruit a new lay member to fill the vacancy left by Mr Hanlon. Council had already discussed the extent and complexity of knowledge and understanding which new Council members would need to acquire in a short space of time in order to contribute effectively to the transition process, especially as the transition was planned to take place in a relatively short time. The cost of recruitment also had to be considered.

Mrs Christine Gray, Head of Corporate Governance, advised the Council that the need to fill a vacancy was not covered in the regulations applying to appointed Council members, although the regulations applying to the election of Council members said that the Council might decide not to fill a vacancy where the remaining term was less than a year. However, the lay member appointments to the Council were made by the Privy Council. One important consideration was that the legislation provided that at least one of the Privy Council appointees should live or work wholly or mainly in each of England, Wales and Scotland. Leaving the place vacant would mean that there was no lay member from Scotland.

Dr Rose Marie Parr, Chairman of the Scottish Pharmacy Board, supported the proposal to leave the place vacant. However, she commented that the Scottish Board considered the involvement of a lay member in the Board very important, and would welcome input from any of the Council's lay members.

Council

agreed

that it was their strongly held view that the current vacancy for a lay member on the Council should not be filled and the Privy Council should be requested to leave the place vacant.

08/40 Council confidential business: attendance of branch/region observers

The President introduced paper 08.04/C/31, which had been circulated. Council discussed the recommendations and was supportive of the principles set out. However, it was the Council's view that the paper should be referred to the Governance Committee, where detailed discussion could take place and recommendations brought back to the Council.

Council

referred

the paper to the Governance Committee.

08/41 Any other business

08/41.1 "Pharmacy in England" White paper

The President welcomed the White paper and the future which it set out for the pharmacy profession. The Minister had written to the President thanking the Society for its contribution to development of the paper. This recognised the hard work and innovative thinking of the Society's staff, Council and members. There was much to do in taking forward the vision set out and the English Pharmacy Board had started to develop an implementation plan. Clearly there would be implications for many of the strands of work which the Society undertook: education, standards, support for service development, etc. There would be a GB-wide impact too and the White paper was also welcomed by the Scottish and Welsh Pharmacy Boards.

The Chief Executive & Registrar thanked the staff for their work, particularly the policy and communications teams who had worked together very effectively.

08/41.2 Charter for Safety of Patients

The President informed the Council that on behalf of the Society he had recently signed the Charter for the Safety of Patients. The Charter was developed by the Healthcare Commission and the National Patient Safety Agency as a response to the DH report "*Safety First*". It asks key healthcare organisations to commit to working together to improve the safety of care received by patients. Complementing this, the Society's work on making Britain the safest place to take medicines had been commenced with a scoping exercise being undertaken by the Science and Policy divisions.

The President closed the public business of the Council.